PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

1891

BULLETIN] MARCH 4, 1944 [No. 187

The Editor will gratefully receive contributions, in English or Tamil, of articles on matters of *National War Front interest*, and publish them, if suitable, as signed articles, in the Bulletin. The articles should be short and reach the Editor a week in advance.

LECTURE CLXXXVII.

AGE OLD FASCISM OF JAPANESE BRAND.

The United Nations are fighting to eliminate Axis tyranny, slavery, oppression and intolerance. It is timely to recall that Totalitarianism, which has been so laboriously engrafted on to the German people in the last few years, has flourished as a way of life in Japan since the birth of Christ.

The idea of leader—worship—"We thank our Fuehrer"—began in Japan in the year 600 B. C. when the Japanese had their first human Emperor Jimmu—the great grandson of the Sun Goddess. To the Japanese the Emperor is more than a leader, he is the divine head. This idea has not had to be taught—it is a part of the first breath drawn by a Japanese baby and has been from time immemorial.

The Gestapo, long regarded as the most thorough and the most terrible of the Nazis weapons, sent a delegation to Japan as late as 1939—1940 to learn how the job should really be done. The Hitler notion of collective responsibility is recent, but for generations past Japanese authorities have divided into collections of five families the populations of all their towns, and every member of such a division is personally responsible for the conduct of others. In Japan all officials serve in pairs—they spy on each other.

POLICE RULE.

Everyone in Tokyo is visited regularly once monthly by an official, who records in a large book he carries the movements of the inmates of every house in his district. Plain clothes men pay additional calls on those whose actions are in any way suspect, and all Japanese are under the eye of the everlasting unknown police.

The burning of books by Nazis caused world wide horror. The Japanese did not have to burn books. None existed that had not been printed with the approval of the Emperor and his advisers. Nazi educational methods of inculcating the idea of Germans

Y21194:19(zM)m N40 N44.187-198

as a master race, and preaching the hopes of a German world dominance, are puerile by comparison with what Japan has been doing for years.

The following is a quotation from a typical Japanese school text book in use before Hitler was heard of: "The Japanese must not fail to realise what Japan has bestowed on the world. This will enable us to control the whole world after we have subdued proud and high-flown countries. Some day, having swept away all rottenness, and subjugated all the arrogant and impolite countries of the world, Japan shall be the king of the world and lord of the whole universe".

MILITARY TOYS.

The military training of Japanese children begins at five. Before that the toys they play with are exclusively military ones, and by the age of 10 they are veterans in the art of warfare.

Hitler's "Bloody Sunday", when he cleaned up his own party, was such an innovation in European politics that the world tends to overlook that with the Japanese, assassination is a regular method of changing Ministers. The much respected and widely loved Takahashi made a classical remark when as Finance Minister in 1936 army leaders spoke pointedly to him of their laying down their lives for the Emperor: "It is not the army that has laid down its life but Prime Ministers." He was machine-gunned by the army a few months later.

99549

What else characterises the Hitler régime? Expansion by aggression? The Japanese had launched their Manchuria campaign in 1931, and the annexation of Korea and other territories were the pattern on which Hitler modelled his Greater Germany. German economy, which aims at an agricultural and feudal Europe, with an industrialised Metropolitan Germany, is borrowed directly from the Japanese, who had long reduced their mainland possessions to slave labour colonies, as Hitler is now aiming to do with occupied territories and the European New Order. Suppression of religious ideals by Hitler where they conflict with his ideology is patterned on the Japanese refusal to allow any religious or philosophic thought to interfere with the idea of the Emperor as God. Finally we have the *Lebensraum.* This is at least 50 years old in Japan. Thus the popular misconception that the Japanese have modelled themselves on the Nazis is seen to be a complete reversal of facts. Overthrow of an infamous political and idealogical Totalitarianism of only a few years standing is a much easier task than that of rooting out even a worse one which has existed from the birth of time.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

(A)—LEADING EVENTS.

21—2—44 (Monday).	Russians occupy *SOLTSY* and *KHOLM.*
22—2—44 (Tuesday).	Allied Planes raid Aircraft plants at *BERBURG, ASCHERSELBEN* and *REGENSBURG* in Germany from British and Italian bases. Nazis lose 133 fighters.
	Russians capture *KRIVOIROG* in the Dnieper Bend.

(A)—LEADING EVENTS—cont.

23—2—44 (Wednesday). **Allied Air Forces pound aircraft factories at *STEYR*.**

24—2—44 (Thursday). **Allied Air Forces launch another heavy attack on the German industrial centres of *GOTHA; SCHWEINFURT* and *STEYR*. Nazis lose 156 fighters.**

25—2—44 (Friday). **Allied Air Forces batter the aircraft factories at *REGENSBURG. AUGSBURG, FURTH* and *STUTTGART* in Germany. Nazis lose 146 fighters.**

YUGOSLAVS land on *BRAC* (a Dalmation Island).

26—2—44 (Saturday). **Russians bomb *HELSINKI* (the Capital of Finland).**

Russians occupy *PORKHOV*.

27—2—44 (Sunday). **Allies destroy 8,000 Japs in the *ARAKAN* Front in Burma—Japs suffer a major defeat.**

(B) NEWS IN BRIEF.

Russia.—The main Russian offensives were directed towards LATVIAN and ESTONIAN frontiers in the north, towards MINSK the capital of WHITE RUSSIA in the centre, and towards the ODESSA—WARSAW railway in the south.

On the LENINGRAD, or northern front, the Russian armies have now reached PSKOV. In the LENINGRAD area they have taken STRUGI-KASNYE, DNO, MYELNITSI, BEZHANITSY, ZABELEYE, PUSTOSHKA, KARAMYSHEYO, SLAKOVICHI, POZHEREVICHI, SLOBODA, NOVO RZHEV, POGORELKA and DOLGOREPITSA.

In the centre, the Germans have evacuated their bastion at VITEBSK, and the Russians have captured ROGHACHEV in the heart of WHITE RUSSIA. This threatens MINSK, the capital of WHITE RUSSIA, held by the Germans.

On the Dnieper front, NOVO VORONSOVKA, SKIROKOYE, INGULETS and VYSOKO-POLYE have been captured.

Italy.—For a week there was a lull on the ANZIO front imposed by the weather. The interval was used on both sides to recuperate and reinforce.

During the last few days the enemy tried to infiltrate between CARROCETO and CISTERNA, but was driven off. There were also skirmishes in other parts of the beach-head, in which British troops seized two strong points on Feb. 27. A third attack launched by the Germans has been repulsed and brought to a standstill.

The 5th Army now holds a third part of CASSINO town.

On the 8th Army front, British troops have made an advance south-east of GUARDIAGRELE, 5 miles south-west of ORSOGNA. Here Indian formations have wiped out German outposts, and Indian gunners have silenced German mortars.

Yugoslav Partisans have landed on the Dalmatian island of BRAC, and captured the islands of RAG and PAG off the Dalmatian coast.

Air-war.—In 3 air raids, on Feb. 22, on the centres of German aircraft production, 310 German fighters were accounted for, in addition to other aircraft hit on the ground.

The places attacked were PETER-HAUSEN, ASCHERSLEBEN, BERNBURG, and REGENSBURG in GERMANY and STEYER in Upper AUSTRIA. Italian-based bombers carried out diversionary attacks.

On the same day, 175 German aircraft crossed into ENGLAND, of which about a hundred penetrated into the LONDON area.

On Feb. 23, the 8th Army Air Force struck at the air-factories of Gotha and the ball-bearing factory at SCHWEINFURT. The whole *Luftwaffe* seemed to be up in the air to repel them, but the Allied supremacy was maintained throughout the journey, over a distance of 700 miles.

On Feb. 24, more than 250 machines attacked 4 German air bases in HOLLAND. They were DEELEN on the German border, LEEUWARDEN, (FRIESLAND), GIZZE and RIJEN. Opposition was negligible.

On the same day, the first daylight alert was sounded in LONDON after an interval of 7 months. 10 enemy raiders were shot down. The casualties, chiefly of children were heavy. Some antiques and art treasures were destroyed.

142 enemy aircraft were destroyed on Feb. 25 during the raids on REGENSBURG, AUGSBURG, FURTH and STUTTGART. REGENSBURG and FURTH contain factories for making air-frame components, STUTTGART is a Messerschmitt assembly centre, and AUGSBURG an experimental station.

Soviet aircraft raided ABO and HELSINKI in FINLAND.

The Pacific.—SAIPAN and TINIAN islands in the MARIANA (LADRONES) group lying north of the CAROLINES, and about 1,300 miles from TOKYO were attacked.

In the SAIDOR area (N. GUINEA) Allied ground forces took GABUMI village, and established a bridge-head on the Mot River.

Burma.—The chief event of the week is the signal victory won by the 14th Army in the ARAKAN sector. The enemy's attempt to sweep into INDIA, after destroying the Allied forces in the ARAKAN, has ended in defeat and disaster. His plan was to capture the NGAKYEDAUK Pass in the MAYU range, and to annihilate the Allied armies on either side of it. Initially, he succeeded in seizing both the Pass and an adjoining road. After three weeks' glorious fighting, in which Indian non-combatants helped to bring supplies, the enemy has been routed, hunted and eliminated. Mopping up operations are in progress.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

20—2—44. (Sunday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—(12 enemy planes shot down).
Aircraft assembly factories at LEIPZIG, GOTHA and BERBERG.
Other factories at LEIPZIG and BRUNSWICK.

NIGHT:—(10 allied planes missing).
Motor works at STUTTGART (W. Germany).
Objectives in enemy occupied territories including **those** at MUNICH.
Laying mines in enemy waters.

ITALY.

Supply dumps, troop concentrations and gun positions on the beach-head area at ANZIO.
Shipping at VIAREGGIO.

RUSSIA.

(11 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

PARAMUSHIRO Island.
Jap atolls in East MARSHALL Islands.
Enemy positions at HANSA BAY.

BURMA.

TAUNGUP.
Rail and water transport north of MONYWA.
Enemy positions on the ARAKAN Front,
Rivercraft in S. BURMA water ways.
Rail junctions and supply areas in Northern BURMA.

21—2—44 (Monday).

DAY:— **EUROPE** (German occupied).
Aircraft factories at BRUNSWICK.
Airfields in N. W. GERMANY.

NIGHT:—
Military objectives in W. GERMANY and in occupied territory.
Laying mines in enemy waters (one Allied plane missing).

ITALY.

Railway yards at ORTE.
Docks at IMPERIA and LEGHORN.
Enemy troops, gun positions and supply dumps in the beach-head area.

RUSSIA.

(8 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

(26 Jap planes destroyed).
Airfields at RABAUL.
Supply dumps at ARAWE.
Jap shipping at WEWAK.
Enemy positions at HANSA BAY.

BURMA.

Jap positions N. E. of BUTHIDAUNG.
SAGAING and **WATAUNG.**
Enemy targets in the ARAKAN and at HOMALIN.
Road and River targets in South and central BURMA.
Warehouses at WUNTHO and KAWLIN.

22—2—44 (Tuesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

(133 enemy planes shot down ; 52 Allied planes missing).

DAY :—
Air craft factories at BERBURG, ASCHERSELSEN, HALBERSTADT and REGENSBURG.
Airfields and other targets in central and Southern GERMANY.
HELSINKI (Finland).
Railway yards at PETERHAUSEN (Germany).

NIGHT :—
Objectives in Western and S. Western GERMANY.
The port of ABO (Finland).

ITALY AND BALKANS.

(50 enemy planes destroyed ; 15 Allied planes missing).
The airfield at ZAGREB (Yugoslavia).
Railway communications at FOUIGNO, ALBANIA and MONTALTO DICASTRO.
The harbours at ZARA and SIBENIK.
Troops concentrations, gun positions and supply dumps in the battle areas.
An enemy convoy off HERAKLION (Greece).

RUSSIA.

(20 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Enemy positions near MADANG (N. Guinea).
RABAUL (N. Britain).

BURMA.

PROME and **AKYAB.**
River craft in the MAYU and KALADAN areas.
Jap troops and gun positions in the ARAKAN area.

23—2—44. (Wednesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY :—
Aircraft factories at STEYR (Austria).
Targets in Northern FRANCE.
Airfields in HOLLAND.

Night :—
Objectives in Western GERMANY.

ITALY.

(36 enemy planes shot down ; 7 Allied planes missing).
Enemy positions and troops in the beach-head area.
Shipping off the DALMATIAN coast and at CASTIGLIONELLO.

RUSSIA.

(18 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

SAIPAN and **TINIAN** Islands (Marina Islands).
Supply yards at HANSA BAY (N. Guinea).
Airfields at RABAUL (N. Britain).
Shipping at KAVIENG (N. Island).

BURMA.

Airfields in MAGWE area and in the AKYAB area.
Jetties and railway stations at MOULMEIN and MARTABAN.
Enemy positions, rivercraft and other targets in the ARAKAN, MAYU and KALADAN areas.

24—2—44. (Thursday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY :—
Aircraft factories at GOTHA, SCHWEINFURT, and STEYR (59 Allied planes missing ; 156 enemy planes shot down).
Coastal areas in Northern FRANCE.
Airfields in HOLLAND and N. FRANCE.

NIGHT :—(35 Allied planes missing ; 3 enemy planes shot down).
The factories at SCHWEINFURT (Germany).
Objectives in N.W. GERMANY.
Laying mines in enemy waters.

ITALY.

(36 enemy planes shot down ; 21 Allied planes missing).
An oil refinery at FIUME.
The airfield at FABRICADI ROMA.
Shipping off the YUGOSLAV coast.
Military objectives on the DALMATIAN coast.

RUSSIA.

(47 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Airfields at RABAUL (N. Britain).
Anti-aircraft positions at WEWAK (N. Guinea).
The airfield at HANSA BAY (N. Guinea).
Barges in MATCHIN BAY.
Installations at KATHERINE and LABORBAYS in N. Ireland, DUKE of YORK Island and CAPE St. GEORGE.

BURMA.

Airfields in MAGWE and AKYAB areas.
Military targets in the ARAKAN area.
Bivouac and supply areas in Northern BURMA.

25—2—44 (Friday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY :—(142 enemy planes shot down ; 44 Allied planes missing).
Airfields in BELGIUM and HOLLAND.
Targets in Northern FRANCE.
Aircraft factories at REGENSBURG, AUGSBURG, FURTH and STUTTGART (all in Germany).

Night :—(24 Allied plane missing).
Aero-engine factories at AUGSBURG (Germany).
Objectives in S.W. GERMANY.
Airfields in the LOW COUNTRIES.
Laying mines in enemy waters.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

The harbours at ZARA and POLA.
Port and rail facilities at FIUME.
Troop concentrations in the ANZIO beach-head Zone.
Motor transport in DALMATIA and in the area North of ROME.
Shipping on the seas in the DODECANESE area.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.
Airfields at RABAUL (N. Britain).
Shipping off KAVIENG (N. Ireland).
Jap targets at KIUKIANG and KUHU (China).
Docks at PONAPE (Carolines).
Enemy held MARSHALL Islands.
KUSAIE and NAURU.

BURMA.
Rolling stock, bridges and motor transport in Southern BURMA.
Objectives in the MAYU, CHIN Hills, AKYAB and ARAKAN areas.
Rail targets at MAYMYO.
Barges on the IRRAWADDY.

26—2—44 (Saturday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—
No information.

Night:—
Barracks and factories at HELSINKI (Finland).

ITALY.
Patrols over the battle area.
Supply dumps and motor transport in the ANZIO beach-head area.

RUSSIA.
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.
A freighter at New HANOVER (N. Ireland).
Shipping and installations at KAVIENG (N. Ireland).
An ammunition dump and a power plant at RABAUL (N. BRITAIN).
The harbour at WEWAK (N. Guinea.)

BURMA.
Enemy positions and other targets in the MAYU, ARAKAN and KALADAN areas.

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

21—2—44 (Monday).

BRITAIN.
LONDON area; parts of East ANGLIA.

ITALY.
Allied beach-head at ANZIO.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No information.

22—2—44 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.
(9 enemy planes destroyed).
LONDON area and places on the east coast of ENGLAND.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No information.

23—2—44 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.
LONDON area.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No information.

24—2—44 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.
LONDON area (10 enemy planes shot down).

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No enemy air activity.

25—2—44. (Friday).

BRITAIN.
No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.
No information.

FAR EAST.
Air combats over the MARSHALLS.

26—2—44. (Saturday).

BRITAIN.
No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No information.

27—2—44. (Sunday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No enemy air activity anywhere.

SIDE LIGHTS.

MR. CHURCHILL'S REVIEW. The best way to do justice to Mr. Churchill's last Tuesday's speech in the House of Commons is to read it closely and carefully. His latest utterances are always the best: such charm they always have. Neither illness nor the worries of office have soured his present address. As usual it is an example of robust optimism, supreme commonsense and steadfastness of purpose.

He began: 'This is no time for sorrow or rejoicing. It is time for preparation, effort and resolve. The war is still going on. I have never taken the view that the end of the war in EUROPE is at hand, or that Hitler is about to collapse, and I have certainly given no guarantee, or even held out any expectation, that the year 1944 will see the end of the European war. Nor have I given any guarantee the other way.'

He ended: 'My hope is that generous instincts of unity will not depart from us in these times of immense exertion and grievous sacrifice, and that we shall not fall apart abroad or at home, and so become the pray of little folk who exist in every country, and flock along side the Juggernaut car of war to see what fun or notoriety they can extract from the proceedings.

'There is one thing we all agreed on at Teheran above all others—to which we are bound in solemn compact—that is, to fall upon and smite the Hun by land, sea and

air, with all the strength that is in us, during the coming Spring and Summer. It is to this task to which we must vow ourselves everyday anew. It is to this ordeal that we must address ourselves with all the moral virtues we possess.

'The task is heavy, the toil is long, the trial will be severe, but let us all try to do our best to do our duty. Victory may not be far away and will certainly not be denied us in the end'.

These extracts are not merely the beginning and the end of a fascinating speech, an opening flourish and a peroration ; we see in them the workings of a powerful mind. He has had his difficulties from trouble-mongers enough,—big and small—as he put it to try his 'Christian patience'; malicious propaganda, from the other side of the Atlantic, not unexpected, on the eve of a Presidential election ; and the friction that is inevitable when some forty Nations have to work in team. But, neither vexed nor depressed, and with a gleam of humour that never fails, he admonishes : this is a time for action but not words ; or fun or for seeking notoriety ; the task is heavy ; the toil is long ; the war is still going on. So, with enough to distract, he is not distracted ; but with a vision undimmed, he fixes his gaze on the goal.

His speech is not a mere exhortation only, but a comprehensive survey also, of war strategy and diplomacy.

v v v v v v v v

THE STRATEGY OF THE AIR WAR. Mr. Churchill, as the speech shows, identifies himself with the school of thought which believes that air-power, which is the distinguishing feature of modern warfare, is going to be the way to victory. Air offensive is the foundation that is now being laid for the coming invasion of EUROPE. GERMANY can be annihilated from the skies. By air-power she set out to win and by the same air-power she can be destroyed. The immediate plan is to bomb out German aircraft production and airfields. The method is unceasing attack, by British bombers by night, and American bombers by day, without giving time to the enemy to recover, the nocturnal blows causing an initial devastation, to be completed later by precision bombing by day. The places selected for attack during the week under report illustrate this point. LEIPZIG, STUTTGART, REGENSBURG, STEYR, AUGSBURG, PETERHAUSEN, ASCHERSLEBEN and BERNBURG are centres of manufacture, either of aircraft or their parts ; and places like LEEUWARDEN, GIZZE and RIJEN are airfields. Some lie in HOLLAND, some in the heart of GERMANY and some in AUSTRIA, but all are plastered alike, by massive attacks, in which hundreds of machines take part simultaneously. According to authoritative estimates, the attacks of the week have succeeded in reducing the enemy's production of aircraft, as a whole, by 50%, and in detail, of twin-engined fighters by 80%, of single-engined fighters by 60%, and of bombers, by 25%. 'The *Luftwaffe*', says the *Daily Telegraph*, 'is dying in its own airfields for lack of a flow of reinforcements.'

v v v v v v v v

WEIGHTS OF ATTACK. The R. A. F., which has made BERLIN its own, has made 900,000 sorties, in all, over EUROPE. The U. S. Bomber Force based in BRITAIN is already larger than the British Bomber Command, and more planes are coming. These two mighty forces, in co-ordination, attack the same targets, sometimes, flying from far away bases in BRITAIN and ITALY, making round trips of a thousand miles and more.

BERLIN, as the reader knows, has been practically knocked out. It no longer exists as a capital, but what is more important, it has also ceased to be GERMANY's industrial headquarters. Every industry in GERMANY, both far and near, was directed and administered from head offices in BERLIN, but now the blue prints have perished in the fires and the administrative offices have been destroyed.

IN ITALY also, air-power is a dominant feature. If the Germans are not able to make as much headway at CISTERNA, as at CORRECETO, one reason is the Allied air-strength there. If in spite of 10 divisions Kesselring is beaten off again and again at ANZIO, it is because railway communications north of ROME are being daily attacked.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

AIR-POWER IN THE PACIFIC. In the Far East the war is of a different kind; it is sea-war. Even here also air-power, in co-ordination with other arms, has driven the Japanese out of the SOLOMONS in the S. W. Pacific, the MARSHALLS in the Central Pacific, and the ALEUTIANS in the Northern Pacific. In these vast sea spaces air-bases have become stepping stones to TOKYO.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

THE ARAKAN VICTORY. The latest victory in the ARAKAN is also partly due to air-power. Here two causes have contributed to the victory, one 'the tenacity, high morale and training of the troops' and the other, 'complete air superiority'.

The warfare in BURMA, ever since it passed over to the enemy, is a story of daily bombing.

Thus in every theatre, the enemy's power is being attenuated and broken by the growth of the Allied air-arm.

Whether air-power by itself can win a war may be open to question, but it has become obvious that air superiority is the way to victory. War has become 'tribious.'

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

THE EXPEDITIONARY AIR FORCE. Information has been released that elements of the Ninth U. S. Army Air Force, which formerly operated in the Middle East, are now in BRITAIN to take part in the coming invasion. The 9th U. S. A. A. F., famous for its attack on the distant PLOESTI oil-fields, is now operating over the PAS DE CALAIS. The Tactical Air Force of the R. A. F. also has been told off for this new work. The A. E. A. F. (The Allied Expeditionary Air Force) has been training for many months under conditions very much like actual fighting. 'They have lived rough; they have been intensely mobile'. All the time they were also actively engaged in actual operations over FRANCE.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN. After a week's lull, the enemy launched a third attack on the beach-head; and it has been repulsed and halted.

Another fierce struggle is no doubt coming. The combatants are well matched, the Germans, with their transported divisions, and the Allies with their superiority in the air, in artillery and in armour. Genl. Alexander, who has fought most against the Germans in the present war, is confident of final success.

ITALY A MAJOR FRONT. ANZIO, which was practically unopposed at the time of the Allied landing, is now fiercely contested. Hitler has evidently changed his mind and is resolved on attacking it with all his might and with all the obstinacy with which he tried to hold STALINGRAD and the Dnieper Bend. Thus, Hitler has himself created a major second front in Italy, and presented it to the Allies. The challenge has been accepted. On broad grounds of strategy, Hitler's decision to send as many as 18 divisions to S. ITALY and half a million Germans more to maintain them, is not unwelcome to the Allies. The Germans must be fought and worn out somewhere and why not in ITALY?

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

HITLER'S FORTRESS IN DANGER. The transfer of large German forces to ITALY has weakened Hitler's European fortress. He has withdrawn 10 divisions from N. ITALY. He has depleted his western defences where the Allied landings are imminent.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

THE RUSSIAN FRONT. The Russians are moving from succes to success. The week's record on all the three fronts—North, Centre and South is noteworthy.

On the northern front, in less than 3 weeks, the enemy has been pushed back a hundred miles from LENINGRAD to the borders of the BALTIC STATES. Great fortifications such as STARAYA RUSSA have been smashed. Three Armies converging from Lake Peipus, Lake Ilmen and NOVO SOKOLNIKI have entered PSKOV on the Latvian frontier. DNO, KHOLM, and PORKHOV have been taken. Another army has crossed the Narva River towards the border of ESTONIA.

At the southern end, the great iron-mining centre of KRIVOIROG has fallen, and three more Russian armies are racing on parallel lines towards the Bug River, the Black Sea ports of KHERSON and ODESSA and the WARSAW Railway, Germany's life-line on the frontier of RUMANIA.

In the Centre, the great German bastion of VITEBSK has been evacuated and Russian forces have taken ROGHACHEV, the gate-way to MINSK, the capital of WHITE RUSSIA.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

REACTIONS. As the Russian armies approach the Baltic frontiers, and as they march into POLAND and move towards RUMANIA, no wonder there is a stir among these States, each one striving to find its place in a future reconstructed EUROPE. FINLAND would have peace. POLAND insists on her pre-war frontier whatever that means. Patriots, Partisans and Collaborationists are busy in the BALKANS quarrelling and fighting for supremacy. There is civil war in GREECE, the Tito-Mihailovitch tug of war in YUGO-SLAVIA, the Royalist—Democratic controversy in ITALY. The Allies drive a middle course, the only course wise in the circumstances. As Mr. Churchill said, this is not the time for 'ideological preferences' we may add, for disputing about forms of Government either. The Allied policy is to work with every Government and every party who will help to win the war.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

POLAND. In these controversies, the question of POLAND's future has a primary place. BRITAIN has not forgotten, as some cynics would have it, that it was to save POLAND that she went to war. BRITAIN is still bent on securing POLAND's independence. It is satisfactory to note that Stalin has

also agreed more than once to respect POLAND's integrity. But independence and frontiers are different matters. Nations may continue to be independent but frontiers may change, as circumstances alter. A contraction of the Polish frontier on one side with a compensation, by expansion, on another side, cannot affect her independence, especially as the safety of RUSSIA demands the readjustment. Both POLAND and RUSSIA have equal claims to consideration—POLAND by reason of her heroic suffering, and RUSSIA as she is bleeding in the Allied cause. Even now, RUSSIA is fighting POLAND's battles inside POLAND itself. POLAND cannot emancipate herself, without RUSSIA's help. Because of the insecurity of her western frontier, RUSSIA has been assaulted in the past every time that the predatory gangs of Central EUROPE broke loose. It is therefore imperative, not only for the peace of RUSSIA, but also for the future of EUROPE, that the Russian frontiers should be shifted to natural barriers, and in every way made secure against the possibility of future molestation. On this point Mr. Churchill is emphatic. He told the House of Commons :—

'Twice in her life-time Russia has been violently assaulted by Germany. Many millions of Russians have been slain, and vast tracts of Russian soil devastated as the result of repeated German aggression.

'Russia has a right of re-assurance against future attacks from the West, and we are going all the way with her to see that she gets it, not only by the might of her arms but by the approval and assent of the United Nations.'

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

FINLAND.

As we said, FINLAND wants peace but she is fickle. RUSSIA has offered an armistice—on the basis of the Finnish-Soviet Treaty of 1940. RUSSIA does not want to occupy HELSINKI, the Finnish capital, nor does she expect an unconditional surrender ; but only a break with GERMANY. There is a difference between armistice and peace. Any armistice terms must insist on the internment of German troops now in FINLAND, and must also provide for the transfer of Finnish territory and bases to the Allies for the duration of the war. These RUSSIA has demanded.

Armistice or peace with FINLAND is not a purely Russian affair. It is a matter for all the United Nations, though the U. S. is not nominally at war with FINLAND. By the Anglo-Russian treaty of 1942, RUSSIA can neither negotiate nor conclude any armistice or treaty with any belligerent, without mutual consent. The Italian armistice was concluded in accordance with this treaty.

FINLAND delays and plays for time.

German propaganda on the subject is cautious and reticent. It pretends that the so-called peace talk in STOCKHOLM between Madame Kollontay and Paasikivi the Russian and Finnish representatives, is only part of the Allied war of nerves. Behind this seeming indifference however, one can discern fear and disquiet. The Germans know the consequences, both political and military, of FINLAND's defection, of the grave reactions it will have on Home morale and the attitude of the Balkan satellites.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

THE BATTLE OF THE PACIFIC.

Following the capture of important islands in the MARSHALLS, came the American attack on the big Japanese naval base of TRUK in the CAROLINES. It is now established that the enemy's loss at TRUK was 19 ships and 201 planes. The nature of the Allied attack is not yet fully disclosed, but it is now known that 'several hundred

American aircraft' took part; that aircraft-carriers took them; that American naval units entered the harbour and challenged the Japanese fleet, but the enemy did not accept the challenge; and also, that JAPAN has invented the fairy tale of an American 'landing' and 'repulse', to claim a Japanese 'victory'.

TRUK demonstrates that Allied air and naval supremacy has now been established in the Central Pacific waters. American forces can roam freely over these vast spaces, practically unopposed, and knock out the supplies that the enemy is attempting to send to his strongholds in the South-West Pacific.

▾ ▾ ▾ ▾ ▾ ▾ ▾ ▾

IN THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC. The latest event is the landing on the ADMIRALITY ISLANDS, which stand at the northern entrance to the Bismarck sea. This is another link in the Allied ring thrown round the SOLOMONS, NEW BRITAIN and NEW IRELAND. The following extract from the *Times* shows the present situation in the South-West Pacific:—

'The long campaign in the SOLOMON islands has passed its culminating point. This was reached recently when American and NEW ZEALAND troops seized GREEN ISLANDS, which lie between the BUKA island and the northern extremity of the BOUGAINVILLE island and NEW BRITAIN. This move cut off the Japanese garrisons dispersed throughout BOUGAINVILLE, CHOISEUL, BUKA and the SHORTLAND ISLANDS from any probable relief, for their nearest friendly base. RABAUL in NEW BRITAIN is under constant air attack, and ships which use its harbour are in perpetual peril. It is doubtful whether the force in BOUGAINVILLE can subsist on its small resources. CHOISEUL and the smaller islands are poor, and their marooned garrisions ill-fed, blockaded and diseased, and appear to be in a hopeless position. The dropping of occasional supplies from the air, even if this is still possible, will not meet their needs. Unescorted barge traffic is still possible, though perilous, along the coast of NEW GUINEA or across the Straits which can be crossed in the few hours of darkness. Attempted over wide stretches of the sea, without adequate air and naval protection, it invites destruction, and it is hard to see where the enemy will find escorts, now that the far more important strongholds of RABAUL and TRUK themselves are in danger.

'The latest phase of the campaign in the SOLOMONS permits further deductions. In the first phase, American troops, established in their beach-heads on the BOUGAINVILLE island, would seem to have no further reason to advance into its mountainous interior. They can safely leave the enemy to the care of General Famine and General Fever, and these two Commanders will operate even more effectively in the smaller islands. If these conclusions are justified, the Northern SOLOMONS can now be bypassed'.

▾ ▾ ▾ ▾ ▾ ▾ ▾ ▾

THE ARAKAN VICTORY. News has come of a splendid Allied victory on the ARAKAN Front in BURMA, of the smashing of a major Japanese offensive intended to destroy the Allied forces and ultimately to invade INDIA. The Japanese plan was to seize the NGAKYEDAUK Pass in the MAYU Range, to cut the British-Indian forces in two, and deprive the 7th Indian Divison of all supplies. Another Japanese force was detailed to cut a road near-by and isolate the 5th Indian Army. At the same time, a general assault was also planned to destroy both the Indian divisions, and to follow it up by a sweeping advance into INDIA. Some 7,000 Japanese

seized the NGAKYEDAUK Pass and the BAWLI BAZAAR–MAUNGDAW road, and further delivered a savage attack on the 7th Indian Division. But the attack was beaten back; the enemy himself has been 'split up, hunted and killed', save a few who, battered and wounded, managed to escape through the jungle.

In this great achievement, the pioneers, including the Madrassis, have written a heroic chapter. Though non-combatants, they carried supplies to their fighting brethren over hilltops at night at great personal risk.

THE FUTURE OF FRANCE IN RECONSTITUTED EUROPE.

(The Marquess of Crewe).

(From the "Manchester Guardian").

The fate of the French when the 'cease fire' is sounded is of deep concern to those who have lived there in the past, or have enjoyed official or business contact with the people. But this is not all. Everyone must realise that New Europe cannot be solidly founded unless France is able to find herself once more, and to renew her unique services to culture and civilisation. This is why we pray to see her "as a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep", and once more taking her place in the forefront. Let us lend a hand as best as we can.

Those Frenchmen, in no way responsible for their country's disaster and striving hard to shape her future, are keenly sensitive to anything that savours of patronage or superior admonition. It is no business of ours, from our standing point of comparative immunity, to offer counsels of perfection to those with whom fate has dealt so cruelly. The soldierly spirit of France burns with steady flame. The unprecedented surrender of groups of armies in 1940 left but a meagre force of regular troops to carry the flag overseas, but the great Colonial Army included fine fighting elements, though imperfectly equipped for the latest devices of warfare.

In Corsica and in snow-clad Italian mountains, mixed forces sustain the best traditions of the Tri-colour. When the peace of Europe is to be established on a lasting foundation, the inventive genius of France, anxious to help in the good work, will be needed. Freedom to differ openly with Parties and persons is the salt that savours of popular Government, but discussion in the face of danger is the virus that corrodes it beyond repair; and when the crash came, that is what happened. The poison was not of recent origin. There had always existed on the extreme right a small côterie to whom the legend of the *Ancient Régime* was sacred, and on the extreme left another, exulting in the dream of a Red revolution.

When Russia exchanged mediaeval despotism for the Marxist experiment in Lenin, and was believed to centemplate the extinction of the Bourgeoisie everywhere, not only was an excuse found for the German and Italian dictatorship, but not a few moderate folk who disliked both were in a degree alarmed. So it was in France, and it partly explains the apathy with which for a time Pétain's overthrow of the Republican Government was on the surface accepted.

But not by all. General de Gaulle, a scientific soldier, who had vainly urged on the authorities the ruinous danger of ignoring the mechanisation of warfare, saw that France's salvation rested on organised resistance from the outside. Others no doubt had seen the coming disaster. Before the so-called armistice, the Vichy combination, described as a

Government—though we have never recognised it as such—might have transferred itself bodily to Africa. There were strong arguments both ways, but considering its poor fabric, it is as well that it did not.

When British and American forces came, French Africa asserted itself genuinely, as it has long been nominally, as the real part of France. So when Africa was cleared, it was natural for the Committee, which had been formed in London under General de Gaulle's leadership, to be remodelled and enlarged at Algiers, and be formally constituted as the Committee of National Liberation. After some difficulties over personalities, an assembly was formed representing not only a fine group of exiles but also the gallant patriots in France—now wholly in German hands—whose exploits continue to harass the merciless invader and the wretched minority of servile traitors and weaklings.

The assembly has already pondered on the general lines of reconstructed policy. It can be no easy task. The vast army of prisoners-of-war, and the ever-increasing thousands of workers consigned to slave labour in German factories, must all have a voice in reaching the final decision, and much must depend on the sequence of events by which freedom is achieved. It is no business of a foreigner to forecast the kind of Government that France will choose or adopt.

MORAL JUSTIFICATION OF AREA BOMBING.

(*The Daily Telegraph*).

Lord Cranborne in the House of Lords gave Essen as an example of what area bombing had done and alone could do. It has, he said, put the Krupps Armament Works "virtually out of action".

He might have added that the area bombing of Hamburg, which both Dr. Bell and Lord Lang seemed to consider reprehensible, has certainly destroyed facilities for building many of those U-boats which would otherwise have sent thousands of defenceless people to a watery grave; or that the bombing of Berlin has seriously inconvenienced quite indisputable Nazis.

If these things were not to happen, the Germans should not have sought—for the fourth time in a century— their own good in the evil of war; and there is an extremely high authority for the ethical propriety of him who takes the sword perishing by the sword.

This raises the consideration of how a bombing offensive makes not only for a quicker peace but for a lasting peace. It is a fact that during all the wars which modern Germany has made hardly a German factory or a German brick has been disturbed. Surely that has been a very strong reason why Germany, whether victorious or baffled, has always started the process of preparing for war again. The Germans will now know that the horrors of war must apply to all belligerents.

Can there be limitations on horrors? They are extremely difficult to impose or observe when one side has no scruples, because observance may well mean sacrifice of the lives of one's own men. Nevertheless, as Lord Cranborne showed, Allied airmen have imposed and will impose limitations on themselves. They will not attack places devoid of military targets, nor German refugees when the time comes for them to stream along German roads. They will not deliberately and wantonly destroy monuments of civilisation (such as the Naples Library).

" It is certainly no intention of His Majesty's Government, " observed Lord Cranborne, " to drop bombs within the precincts of the Vatican City, nor if it can be avoided on the city of Rome. " There is, therefore, a very great difference, in spite of Dr. Bell's fears, between the Allied and the German policy.

The apparent conflict of opinion between Dr. Bell and all but a handful of his fellow countrymen is a very old one. The division is not between the humane and the inhuman but between those who can face facts and those who cannot. The fact is that a crippling of the bombing offensive now could be much more dangerous to civilisation than its continuance, and in the long run inflict much more suffering on the innocent. In his deep and sincere horror at the spectacle of destruction anywhere, Dr. Bell allows himself to forget that the alternative is the greater and more prolonged destruction of these even more innocent, namely, the fighting men and civilians of his own people.

AIR BLOWS FROM BERLIN TO BRIDGE-HEAD.

(*Wing Commander L. V. Fraser*).

Berlin and bridge-head ! A shattering weight of bombs falls from massed formations of Allied heavy bombers on the heart of the German war machine, while still more shower down to help turn the scales on defensive outposts that Hitler is struggling so hard to retain in Italy. And even more are to spare for the almost daily traffic over the military objectives of the Pas de Calais area.

The grand total of more than 2,500 tons dropped on Berlin on the night of February 15 by the R. A. F. heavies in 20 minutes is in itself spectacular enough to take the attention away from the bridge-head struggle. The whole picture, however, must be studied in order to estimate the enormous air power at the command of the Allies, enabling them to strike victory-building blows so many miles apart.

HITTING AT KEY POINTS.

Over the Anzio-Nettuno bridge-head, big bombers using the Tedder technique are blasting enemy positions, troop concentrations and gun emplacements. Albano, Cisterna, Cecchina, Velletri and Campoleno are recurring targets. At night, R. A. F. Wellingtons have been doing their usual polished precision bombing of complementary targets, while R. A. F. Mosquitoes and Bostons strafe troop movements, giving the enemy no rest by day or night.

The sight of the great Fortresses and Liberators of the U. S. A. A. F. overhead is a heartening one for Allied troops. Their power to paralyse an enemy counter-attack and throw his forces into confusion has been felt before, as at Salerno last September.

NEED FOR CONTINUED ATTACKS.

An air battle of communications is one that cannot be relaxed. To put a " bomb curtain " between the enemy and his reinforcements and supplies calls for a constant treatment of choke points. You may bomb at important cross roads, shatter railway junctions and leave tracks ripped up and blocked with wreckage. Bomb strike photographs show scenes of indescribable chaos. But 48 hours of feverish work by engineers will make a road or railway usable again, even if a destroyed bridge may mean using a road transport " shuttle service " round the obstacle.

Before the landing took place in the Anzio-Nettuno area on the night of January 21, all communications with Rome had been sealed off, and the Fifth Army had a complete tactical surprise. But to cut a rail or road artery and keep it cut, the same key points

must be bombed over and over again at frequent intervals. At one time, three main railways linking Rome with the north and the north-east of Italy were cut, and the Germans were sending some supplies by sea, despite vulnerability of the coastal shipping to attacks by the Coastal Air Force.

HANDICAPPED BY WEATHER.

Capricious Italian weather, which has hampered the whole of the air campaign, has been the Germans' most faithful ally ever since the new bridge-head was opened. During the long periods when it was impossible for the Allied air forces to slash at enemy communications up and down the Italian peninsula, the wehrmacht worked fast, moving their convoys over the rail and road network to mount their counter-attacks.

Hitler has not underestimated the importance of the bridge-head. If it succeeded, and Rome fell within a comparatively short time, it might have a disastrous effect on the Nazis' efforts to hold down the Italians in the industrial north. To an average Italian, whoever rules in Rome rules all Italy. And a victory for the German arms, however small, is badly needed to bolster up the sagging morale in the Fatherland, in the face of the staggering losses inflicted by the Russians in the east, and the devastation caused by the R. A. F.'s bombing offensive against German cities.

Only on rare occasions has the enemy air activity over the whole Italian peninsula been on other than a small scale, but from time to time bomb carrying F. W.—190s, escorted by M. E.—190s and fighter bombers, make sporadic sorties over the bridge-head.

In four days, January 27 to 30, the *Luftwaffe* lost a total of 153 aircraft over Italy. In one day (January 27) 50 were destroyed, 25 of them over the bridge-head, the next day a further 36 shared the same fate. January 30 was the blackest day of all. The *Luftwaffe* lost 63 aircraft in combat, the highest daily score of the Italian campaign. At the same time, the Germans have been bringing their latest long-range bombers, such as the four-engined H. E.—177 from as far afield as the French Atlantic coast, to strike at the shipping off the Italian coast with supplies for the Allied forces. These bombers would ordinarily be used to harass the shipping in the western approaches to Britain, so that the effort put out by the German air force over Italy has undoubtedly relieved the pressure elsewhere.

TRUE MEANING OF SOVIET CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

LIMITED PURPOSE OF LOCAL FOREIGN COMMISSARIATS

(*W. N. Ewer.*)

Most of the first comments on Soviet constitutional changes were really comic in their rather bewildered variation. But steadier and better informed writers in Britain judged the effect of the changes more soberly, and it now seems clear, more accurately.

First, there is, as they pointed out, nothing new in the declaration that each Republic has the right of secession from the Union. That right has in principle existed from the beginning, though, in fact, the links which bind the member Republics are so close that secession would in practice be all but impossible.

Second, there is clearly no intention that each Republic shall determine its own foreign policy. There will be Foreign Commissariats in each ; but they will work under the general direction and control of the Union Republic Commissariat, which will decide the main lines of policy.

Nor is there any intention of asking the British Government, for example, to receive 17 separate Soviet Embassies or Legations in London, and to send an Ambassador or Minister to the capital of each Soviet Republic. That would be an unthinkable waste of man-power and money and a source of endless confusion.

As to the vision of a bloc of 17 Soviet votes in international conferences, that exists only in the minds of those who know nothing of such conferences, and imagine that they reach decisions by a mechanical counting of votes, and that the Soviet Government's influence in the peace conference would be determined by the number of its delegates.

What then is the purpose of the change? What will be the functions of the Foreign Commissariats of the individual Republics? "High policy" is to be carried on, as before, by the Union Republic Commissariat. But there are a number of matters M. Molotov indicated specifically, economic and cultural matters, which it is felt could be more efficiently dealt with by localised administrations. In normal times the Armenian Republic, for example, must for geographical reasons have many relationships with Turkey, which could be more efficiently and expeditiously dealt with in Erivan than by a constant reference to Moscow. The distances are so great, and local conditions so varied, along thousands of miles of the frontier in Europe and Asia ,that it seems plain common sense to deal with local trans-frontier questions locally, except where they affect important issues of general policy.

So, in as far as the change affects outside countries, it is seen in Britain as a very practical measure of decentralisation which should be all for the good. Co-operation of outside Governments is obviously necessary, for they will have to be asked in the future to deal in certain matters with local foreign commissariats, instead of as now with Moscow. India, for example, might be asked to receive Consuls or Agents from Turkman or the Tadjek Republic as her nearest neighbours, and to accredit consuls or agents to their Government. A large Republic, such as the Ukraine, may wish to have a Minister in Britain, and to receive a British Minister in Kiev.

It is expected that in due course specific suggestions for putting the new system into operation will be received from Moscow. It goes without saying that they will have what the jargon of diplomacy calls a "most sympathetic consideration", and that the British Government will do everything possible to facilitate a smooth working of the new machinery, which should help to a speedier and a more efficient handling of the details of international relationships.

VATUTIN THE AVENGER.

(*By Ralph Hewins in the "Sunday Dispatch"*).

To General Nicolai Vatutin the merciless pursuit is more than a mere military operation.

It is also a highly personal matter. He has an inexpiable grievance to settle with the hated Huns. For he is Ukrainian born and bred.

He is only 38, and is still full of the fire of youth. He hardly remembers the Czarist days, and is a complete child of the Revolution.

His has been the most meteoric career in the Red Army during the present war, with the possible exception of 37-year-old General Rokossovsky, the immortal saviour of Stalingrad.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Vatutin was only a colonel, and as such accompanied Marshal Semion Timoshenko as Staff Officer when the Red Army marched in to occupy Eastern Poland and Bessarabia before the Germans got there.

The German invasion of U. S. S. R. found Vatutin serving as a junior General under General, now Marshal, Gregory Zhukov on the central front.

Zhukov has an eye for talent, and it was young Vatutin that he selected for the counter-attack at Vyasma in December 1941.

On success or failure of that action depended the fate of Moscow, the hub of the Soviet Union. Vatutin recaptured Vyasma. This was the Red Army's first outstanding success after the original reconquest of Rostov, the first time Vatutin made headlines, and the first of his long, unequalled series of successes.

In December 1942 he was entrusted by Zhukov, who planned the Stalingrad counter-offensive, with sewing up the side of the Stalingrad sack, which embraced the middle Don. On the 19th Vatutin forced the Don after a four-day battle, and on the 27th cut the Voronezh-Rostov railway.

In January last year his genius was recognised by Stalin's awarding him the Suvorov Order, the highest Soviet military decoration.

On August 5, Stalin personally congratulated him on his part in the offensive leading up to the conquest of the key cities of Orel and Byelgorod.

On August 23 he retook the mighty German base of Kharkov.

The important railway centre of Sumy fell to him on September 2, and then on the 6th of that month came Kiev, the holy Russian city and his spiritual and racial capital.

What is the secret of his success ?

First, he is one of the most brilliant products of the superb Russian Artillery School ; secondly, he is considered the best improviser in the Red Army.

The combination of these twin qualities produced one outstanding tactical innovation of this war, namely, the using of whole artillery brigades in the front line alongside tanks, and even in isolation when tanks could not be used and infantry had not arrived.

Such an unconventional use of artillery, begun as an emergency measure during the 1941 siege of Moscow, when tanks were scarce, has become an integral part of Red Army tactics.

HONOURING MOSCOW DECLARATION ABOUT ITALY.

By Norman Smart, 'The Daily Express Naples Correspondent'.

Ten million people come under Badoglio's rule by an Allied decree operating from the midnight of February 14.

Almost all conquered Italy, including Sicily and Sardinia, is restored to the Italian Government's jurisdiction.

Lieutenant General Sir Noel Mason Macfarlane, Deputy Chief of the Allied Control Commision, has announced the decree.

Without prejudice to the rights which the United Nations have under the armistice—exercised by General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, C-in-C., of the Allied Forces in the Mediterranean—all powers of Government will belong to the Italians.

The freed area is defined as all that part of the peninsula south of the northern boundaries of the provinces of Salerno, Potenza and Bari.

It does not include the strategic islands of Pantellaria, Lampedusa and Linosa.

The transfer involves no commitment to the Badoglio administration after the fall of Rome. Badoglio has promised to give way to another Government—if the Italian people wish it—when Rome is captured. Throughout the freed territories, officers of the Allied Control Commission, of which General Wilson is the Chief, will advise and assist Italian officials. Amgot officials who previously exerted direct authority will be withdrawn.

Proclamations by Badoglio and General Alexander, acting President of the A. C. C., have been posted on the walls to announce the change.

General Macfarlane said: "This is the first major step to hand back to the Italian Government its own territory. On the success attending the first transfer depends the prospect of the successive transfers. If the Italian administration proves, as we hope, equal to the task, the number of counsellors and advisers whom we leave behind will be gradually and substantially reduced.

"The task of welding the military Government and the Commission into one team is of the first importance, since it is the first experiment in rehabilitating Europe, and on the experience here must to a certain extent depend success elsewhere when the time comes."

General Macfarlane then defined these chief aims of his team: one, to ensure a smooth running of Italy in connection with the armistice terms; two, to help the Italians to give the maximum possible assistance in every respect to the Allied war effort; three, to remove from General Alexander, the Allied C-in-C. in Italy, the neccessity of looking back over his shoulder while conducting operations.

General Macfarlane said that the transfer was a result of the Moscow Conference between Mr. Eden, Mr. Hull and Mr. Molotov, in which it was agreed that the "Italian people shall be given every opportunity to establish governmental and other institutions based on democratic principles."

Points from the decree announcing the change are: "When the Allies first occupied metropolitan Italy, it was a military neccessity that order should be established and maintained among the civil population and behind the lines, to enable the troops to continue fighting under the most favourable conditions.

HUMAN NECCESSITY.

"It was a human necessity that men, women and children in the occupied territory should be relieved as far as possible from the distress military operations had brought.

"Accordingly, an Allied Military Government was established on the basis of the international law. Italy's declaration of war against Germany on October 13 marked the final break of the Italian people with German-dominated Fascism.

"On November 1, the United States, the United Kingdom and Soviet Russia expressed the basis of their policy towards Italy in the Moscow declaration, which reiterated that 'Fascism and its evil influences and emanations must be utterly destroyed.' This statement was reflected by the formation of the Allied Control Commission. But the Commission was also charged with planning a gradual transfer of territory to the Italian administration. Italians of honest, democratic convictions must lay the foundations for the country's future."

A TURKISH VIEW POINT.

(*From the Mediterranean Review*).

"The reasons why Turkey, an ally of Britain, has not yet entered the war are still not fully understood by world public opinion," declared Huseyin Cahid Yalcin, editor of the Istanbul *Tanin*, in a recent article in the *Manchester Guardian*.

LOOKING BACK.

Here is an extract from his article: "When the Ankara pact was signed in 1939, war had already broken out between Britain and France on the one side and Germany on the other, and as the character of the pact was only defensive, Turkey was not then obliged to enter the conflict. Turkey was to help her ally, with everything in her power only if the war, as a result of aggression against Britain and France, extended to the Mediterranean, and also if Britain, obliged by the guarantees she had given, had to come to the aid of one of the Balkan countries. Further, any help that Turkey could give her ally was not supposed to drag her into an armed dispute with Soviet Russia. Even were we to leave aside the legal considerations of the pact, Turkey's entry into the war at that period would only have meant disaster both for herself and for her allies. Geographically, Turkey is separated from Britain. Had Turkey, despite the risk of dispute with Russia, participated in the war when the conflict, after Italy's entry, extended to the Mediterranean, (that is, after the defeat of France and the retreat from Dunkirk), she would not have received the slightest aid from Britain. Turkey, with an army that although for the Balkans it was considered redoubtable would be primitive in front of the Nazis, was not at that moment in a position to attack Germany.

TURKEY'S MILITARY STRENGTH.

"Turkey did not enter the war, but this was of more help to Britain than winning a great battle. Turkey, in closing the road to Syria, Iraq and Egypt, was protecting the rear of the British forces in North Africa. Turkey's entry into the war against the Nazis at that moment would only have served to open for the Germans the road to Egypt and Basra.

"If Turkey were to fight alone, her offensive would not even help to draw on herself a sufficient number of German divisions to bring about any change in the situation on the eastern and western fronts. The Germans have as reserve the Bulgarian Army, and there are German forces in the Balkans. Is Turkey well enough equipped with modern arms to fight with success combined Bulgarian and German armies? We have enough faith in the goodwill and sincerity of the military experts of our Allies to leave them to answer this question. As far as our opinion is concerned, there is still much to be done in this field.

"The use of Turkish bases would help the Allies neither to win nor to shorten the war. On the other hand, Turkey's declaring war and remaining passive would result in her receiving blows at her most vital points. Cities like Zonguldak, Izmir and Istanbul, which are most vulnerable, would be subject to the heaviest raids of the enemy. Further, the sea route leading through the Straits would still be under the control of the enemy, and help to Soviet Russia would still be impossible."

WEST AFRICAN TROOPS IN INDIA.

It is officially announced that West African troops have arrived in India. They include veterans of the Abyssinian campaign who are now in newly-formed units.

The men who come from the four Colonies of Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and Gambia, were accompanied by British officers and other ranks who had trained them on the West Coast. They comprise infantry, field and anti-aircraft gunners, engineers, signallers medical and transport units. There are approximately equal numbers of Christians, Mahomedans, and others. For the great majority of them, it is the first time they have ever been more than a few miles from their own homes.

The Royal West African Frontier Force has developed since the beginning of the war from a comparatively small garrison force to a large and fully modernised fighting arm. While Gold Coast and Nigerian brigades were fighting in Abyssinia, intensive recruiting was going on in the thousands of tribal villages in the jungle and bush country of the four Colonies.

Paramount chiefs co-operated, and hunters, fishermen and African craftsmen joined with the skilled tradesmen and school-educated recruits of the towns and cities to multiply the size of the Force many times.

Revolutionary progress was made. Formerly illiterate men, for instance, were taught to operate anti-aircraft instruments such as the height-finder and predictor.

Behind all the planning and organisation was General Sir George J. Giffard, G. C. B., D. S. O., as General officer Commanding-in-chief, West Africa. General Giffard was awarded the G. C. B. (Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath) in the New Year's Honours List.

The Force grew and developed in a "hush hush" atmosphere, that had some of its origins in the strained relationship between the Allies and Vichy France during 1941 and 1942.

When French West Africa declared for the Allies in November, 1942, the Frontier Force's West Coast "sentry duty" was over. For the British personnel who worked there year after year, some to die in what is one of the most unhealthy climates in the world, their arrival in India is merely a continuation of long foreign service that now has a wider acknowledgment.

Forces from West Africa have already played a prominent part in the present war. West African Units distinguished themselves in the African Campaigns, and particularly in the advance from Kenya into Italian Somaliland and Abyssinia in 1941. Accustomed as they are to a tropical climate, and many of them to conditions very similar to those existing in the jungle country of Burma and Malaya, these magnificent troops take very quickly to the type of training required for fighting the Japanese.

With the eviction of the Axis from North Africa, West African units could be used for operations elsewhere. They thus represent one of the first instalments in fulfilment of the British Commonwealth's declared intention to concentrate its man-power against the Japanese as victory develops in the West.

INDIAN SOLDIERS' BOARDS.

Thousands of problems are handled yearly by the Indian Soldiers' Board—a large and growing organisation whose sole concern is the welfare of ex-soldiers' and serving soldiers' families in India.

The work of this organisation—there are as many as 163 Boards spread all over India—makes a valuable contribution to the maintenance of morale. The soldier overseas can do his job without the worry that his family may be in difficulties; the families themselves know that if anything goes amiss while their men are away there is a sympathetic group of local officials and ex-servicemen to whom they can refer their troubles.

STEADY EXPANSION.

Indian Soldiers' Boards came into existence at the end of the last war, to assist demobilised soldiers to take their places back in civil life; and since 1939 they have steadily expanded. In 1939, there were 79 District Soldiers' Boards; to-day there are 135 in British India and another 28 in the Indian States. There is a Central Board in New Delhi, which co-ordinate the activities of Provincial Boards in various areas of India from which the bulk of the Indian Army personnel is recruited.

The District Soldiers' Boards come under the control of the Provincial Boards. The Deputy Commissioner or Collector of an area or district is normally the chairman of a District Board, and is assisted by a committee of local police and agricultural department officials, ex-officers and men of the Services and citizens who volunteer to serve on the committees.

WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES.

The activities of these Boards cover a wide range. They circulate information to soldiers' families in India about educational concessions for their children; they help to obtain the correct postal addresses of a serving soldier for the dependants, help to fight his law suits in civil courts in his absence in conformity with the provisions of the Indian Soldiers' Litigation Act, and provide medical attention; they often give monetary grants to families of soldiers who are in distress, including cash dowries for the marriage of their daughters, scholarships, compassionate grants and adjustment of gratuities and pensions.

Typical of the work done by the Soldiers' Boards are two recent cases where soldiers invalided home were given prompt assistance by lump sum grants, and arrangements were also made for their welfare. One of them was suffering from partial paralysis and chances of his recovery were very small. He was taken from his village to one of the bigger towns, where arrangements could be made for looking after him and his needs.

In the other case the soldier died after a short illness, and the Board continued assistance to his dependants. The Central Board also does everything possible to assist disabled soldiers to obtain rehabilitation treatment or to obtain artificial limbs.

Not the smallest detail that could improve the comfort of the soldier's family, or ease the mind of a man serving overseas, thousands of miles away from his home, is neglected by the Boards. For example, all matters of mail consistently going astray are carefully investigated, correct addresses ascertained as far as possible, and steps taken to see that a smoothly running flow of correspondence from the soldier to his family and *vice versa* is assured.

The Central Soldiers' Board at New Delhi administers a number of funds, which include the Defence Forces Relief Fund, and the Indian Army Benevolent Fund, out of which grants are made for the Relief of families of soldiers and for the education of their children. A special pension of Rs. 5 a month is paid to all blinded Indian soldiers by this Board.

Recently, an order went out to all District Soldiers' Boards, that members of the Indian Air Force and the Royal Indian Navy are also to benefit by the Boards' assistance.

ARMY ASSISTANCE TO CIVILIAN POPULATION : IN SOUTH INDIA.

(*Madras War Review*).

Lt.-General Sir NOEL BERESFORD PEIRSE G.O.C.-in-C, Southern Army, in a speech recently in Madras explained the various forms of assistance given by the army to the civilian population particularly in the matter of food supplies. He said: In any army fresh food for the troops must come to a great extent from the country where the Army is stationed.

In the Southern Army requirements from civil sources are reduced to a minimum by the initiation of Army schemes for growing food.

VEGETABLES.

As a result of the development of Army schemes for growing vegetables, 75 per cent of the Army (British, Indian and American) vegetable consumption comes from Army sponsored schemes, operated for the most part by Provincial and State Governments on the Army's behalf. The Army guarantees to take the crops.

Surpluses will be disposed of in the civil markets, the Army bearing any loss should the price realized by the sale be less than the price the Army has paid the cultivator for his produce.

FINANCE.

The schemes operate normally as follows :—

The Civil Government and the Army bear an equal share in the overhead charges, which include the pay of extra staff, travelling expenses of agricultural demonstrators, etc. Through the special staff engaged, the Army makes immediate advances to the cultivators for the purchase of seed, manure, etc.

The Army also provides the agricultural staff with a permanent imprest—amounting, in one very big scheme, to as much as six and a half lakhs—to enable cash payments to be made to the producer, who has the satisfaction of exchanging his produce for cash. It also, of course, encourages him to bring to the collecting centres the maximum amount of produce.

PRODUCE.

One of the most fruitful schemes is that operated by the Agricultural department of the Madras Government for vegetable production in the Nilgiris. The Army is already receiving some 3,000 tons of English vegetables annually from this rapidly expanding scheme.

An increase of the Nilgiris potato production, by the assignment of approximately 4,000 acres of additional land by the Madras Government, has made it possible for the Army to be supplied with potatoes without curtailing civilian requirements in the Presidency.

Other big vegetable-growing schemes are in the development or planning stage in the Madras Province.

INDIA, THE LAND OF OUR DREAMS.

India is a vast and varied country, every part presenting some different scene, some different quality to be loved and some different problem to be solved. No one can know India as we know our village and our own street.

Consequently to all of us India is a land of dreams, known intimately in a small part only and the rest of the picture drawn from the imagination. There is a dream India too of History, India of Buddha and Shri Krishna, of the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, and of the Rajput and the Muslim emperors: There is a dream India of the future, a great land assuring to all its people peace and plenty at home, dignity and respect abroad, combining with the new western progress those spiritual ideals for which India is so justly renowned. There is also a dream India of to-day, though this India is to most of us a nightmare rather than a dream, of division, lack of confidence in ourselves, in our leaders, in our government.

How much of this nightmare is unreal: the product of ignorance building on baseless suspicion! It is our task to mould this India of to-day, this dream of ignorance and division, into the shape of our common ideals of the past and future India. We must spread the knowledge of India's greatness: how can we, knowing India's traditions, her vast size and huge resources both physical and spiritual, allow ourselves to want confidence in India's destiny, and in our own power as citizens of India to maintain with distinction the great place that India should hold in the world of to-morrow.

CONFIDENCE.

Confidence in ourselves is the key that will open the gates of the future, confidence based in courage and in action, confidence bred from the deeds of our soldiers on the field of battle and from the steady courage of their relatives and friends in the hundreds of thousands of villages of India, whose faith in victory and whose toil for victory never wavered in the darkest days.

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT.

(Appeal by the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Member for Food, Government of India).

"It needs no word of mine to remind the country of the distress which has in recent months prevailed owing to local shortages and high prices of food. Although for the time being distress has been alleviated, it has not disappeared. Moreover, India, in common with many other parts of the world, must for years to come look forward to a period of world difficulty, in which conservation of resources will be a necessity. In this, those of us who are more easily situated than our fellows should set an example, and give a lead. I therefore appeal for a conscious effort on the part of everybody to avoid waste and excess in the consumption of food. Banquets and lavish entertainments are out of place at such a time, and in our own houses we can exercise a restraint which will be of direct benefit to our country."

TECHNICIANS—TRAINING.

Applications are invited from candidates for training as Fitters, Electricians, Blacksmiths, Textile refitters (upholsterers) and Carpenters in the Technical Training Centres attached to His Highness the Raja's College, Pudukkottai and the P. W. D. Workshop, Pudukkottai.

2. Selected candidates will be paid stipends during the training at the rate of Rs. 29 a month if they have passed the School Final Examination, and Rs. 24 if they have not.

3. Detailed particulars regarding the training scheme can be had from the State Engineer or the Principal.

4. Forms of application can be obtained from the State Engineer.

5. The Selection Committee will select candidates on the 22nd of every month at 11 a.m., in the State Engineer's Office, Pudukkottai.

Members of the public are requested to make a free present of any suitable old Tamil books they can spare for the perusal, in their leisure time, of our soldiers outside India.

Books so given will be handed over to the Superintendent of the State Press, who will arrange to despatch them.

PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CLXXXVII. (*Batch 3*).

4- 3-44	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.	8- 3-44	Ramachandrapuram ...	7.00 p.m.
5- 3-44	Surakkadu	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Rayavaram	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Kottaikkadu	... 7.30 ,,	9- 3-44	Valaramanikkam.	... 7.00 ,,
6- 3-44	Tiruvarangulam	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Embal	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Vamban	... 7.30 ,,	10- 3-44	Viralimalai	... 7.00 ,,
7- 3-44	Malaiyur	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Poruvai	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Karambakkudi	... 7.30 ,,			

LECTURE CLXXXVIII. (*Batch 4*).

11- 3-44	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.	15- 3-44	Nartamalai	... 7.00 p.m.
12- 3 44	Alangudi	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Uppiliakkudi	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Rasiamangalam	... 7.30 ,,	16- 3-44	Andakkulam	... 7.00 ,,
13- 3-44	Puttambur	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Killanur	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Vaithikkovil	... 7.30 ,,	17- 3-44	Kodumbalur	... 7.00 ,,
14- 3-44	Vadavalam	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Viralur	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Sammattividuthi	... 7.30 ,,			

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

4—3—44	Ponnamaravathi.	11—3—44	Vettamviduthi.
5—3—44	Tittanviduthi.	12—3—44	Maruthankoneviduthi.
7—3—44	Kudumiyamalai.	14—3—44	Konapattu.
9—3—44	Alangudi.	16—3—44	Kilanilai.
10—3—44	Pudukkottai.	17—3—44	Pappapatti.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai, 750—5-3-44.